



South Orange/Maplewood **Community Coalition on Race**

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www.twotowns.org

MISSION

To build and sustain a community that is racially, culturally and socially integrated and truly inclusive, where there is equity and equality for all.

VISION

We aspire to be a community that is a model for the nation in which people of different races, ethnic groups and backgrounds can interact, form friendships and participate fully in the community's economic, political, civic, educational and cultural life.

Adopted June 23, 2016

Become one of the many volunteers that make the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race work!

Work with a diverse group of your neighbors, be active in community life, and use your talent in support of racial integration and inclusion. There's a job for every schedule and level of time commitment, from single projects to regular monthly meetings. We have four mission focus areas, each of which oversees a variety of projects and community events:

Schools This group works to ensure that students of all races are expected and encouraged to excel in a community that is proud and supportive of our schools. It focuses on eliminating the academic achievement gap; promoting parental involvement; providing resources, information, and training to teachers and parents; and advocating for diversity hiring, and integrated schools and classrooms.

Community Engagement Bringing the community together to learn, to build relationships across racial and cultural barriers, and to celebrate differences is the focus of this mission area. Volunteers are active in one or more events and projects like the annual MLK Celebration, Conversations on Race, the Civic Engagement Institute, Integration through the Arts programs, Coffee House Discussions, and XRrootsFest—our annual multicultural festival.

Marketing Communications Promoting the welcoming and inclusive nature of our towns to potential homebuyers, and raising local, regional, and national awareness for the Coalition on Race's mission and programs are the goals of this group. Volunteers identify target audiences and publications for placing promotional ads, develop stories, oversee our website and social media marketing, and support Coalition events with outbound communications.

Residential Using pro-integrative strategies to support stable racial integration in our towns' neighborhoods, this group works with realtors and neighborhood associations, gives tours to prospective home-buyers, and oversees a Home Maintenance Loan in support of strong and attractive neighborhoods.

Visit www.twotowns.org/programs/ for more information
and www.twotowns.org/volunteer to sign up

The South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit that is supported by individual donations as well as municipal, foundation, and corporate funding.

Visit www.twotowns.org to donate online.

Stay connected with us!



Community Building—through Dialogue, Forums, Workshops, & the Arts

Conversations on Race, an annual community forum to learn about and discuss race-related issues in a safe environment

Coffee House Discussions, a series of informal conversations where people engage in thoughtful dialogue on race-related matters of concern to our community

Community Film Screenings & Discussions of documentaries on race and related integration topics with directors and historians

Anti-bias/Cultural Competency Training, helping residents, teachers, leaders, and organizations to develop a self-awareness of culture, bias, and discriminatory practices

Brown V. Board of Education 50 Years Later, an examination of progress since the landmark case with journalist Juan Williams

Integration Matters forum with international authority, dr. john a. powell (lower case intentional)

Integration through the Arts, building relationships across racial barriers through a variety of art experiences

Theater for Children, professional opera, drama & more to engage children and families in learning about racial integration

Through the Lens of Integration, photography workshops to learn skills & to capture local images of integration

Two Towns in Harmony, premiere of an original music suite performed by over 100 residents, based on the history and people of SOMA and commissioned through a Coalition grant from America Composers Forum

Fine arts, crafts, writing, and singing workshops that bring people together of different races and backgrounds over a shared interest

XRootsFest, a multicultural festival that celebrates the many cultures of our region with live performances, activities, and food

Talking to Children about Race, workshops for parents about raising kids in an integrated community and communicating about race

Thinking Globally, Acting Locally forum with Governor Thomas Kean, then a member of the President's Advisory Panel on Race

Two Towns: One Book, community-wide book readings including forums with the authors and small group discussions. 600 people joined to discuss Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum's book, "Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?"

Community Support—Interfaith Dialogues, Strong Neighborhoods & Schools

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Observances & Volunteer Service Fairs held annually with nationally known speakers, drawing crowds of over five hundred; community service projects to support volunteerism and local causes

Demographics Research, ongoing assessments of community demographics to inform our pro-integrative strategies for the future

Civic Engagement Institute, specialized educational classes to train new volunteers to serve in our towns

Achievement Gap Study Series, workshops & forums, including a district day with Dr. Ron Ferguson of Harvard, leading to the Top Ten Tips for Supporting Your Child's Academic Achievement brochures

Mind the Gap! Good Schools & the Achievement Gap, community forum with radio producer Nancy Solomon

I Sit Where I Want, The Legacy of Brown v. Board of Education, with filmmakers Marco Williams & Whitney Dow

Parent Advocacy Workshops & Publications to help parents with their children's academic success

Home Maintenance Loan Program, offers financial assistance to local homeowners in neighborhoods with the greatest need

Recruiting and Retaining Racially Diverse Volunteers, a published resource for external organizations; training also offered

Promoting the Benefits of Integration—Marketing Programs

Two Towns, One Great Community virtual video tour promoting our towns to visitors and prospective homebuyers

Community Tours free to prospective homebuyers to affirmatively market all neighborhoods

Speakers Bureau, Coalition staff and trustees present talks on intentional integration in diverse communities

Realtor Advisory, a dialogue with realtors to help them market our towns and to ensure that prospective homebuyers of all races are welcomed in every part of the community

Story & Ad Placements in local and national media highlighting the quality of life in an integrated community

Recognitions Received

Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders recognition of support, 2017

NJ Council for the Humanities, selected to be part of the Face to Face Community Conversations program, 2013

Humanitarian Award, American Conference on Diversity, 2012

Regional Equity Achievement Award for outstanding leadership in achieving social justice & regional equity, PlansmartNJ, 2010

NJ State Legislative Commendation, honoring the Coalition on Race for its pro-integrative initiatives, 2009

Exemplary Partnership Program Award, NJ Association of School Administrators & the New Jersey Association of Partners in Education, 2007

Leadership Award for promoting civic engagement in the community, Leadership New Jersey, 2003

Promising Strategies for Valuing Diversity Award, the American Psychological Association, 2002

Invited to participate in President Clinton's Initiative on Race/HUD study to explore statewide and national pro-integrative policy

Received special recognition from State Assemblyman John McKeon as the leading group in the state promoting racial harmony.